

Executive Summary

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Public Law 96-510), commonly known as Superfund, in 1980. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) (Public Law 99-499), which amended CERCLA in 1986, added Section 120 regarding the cleanup of contaminated sites at Federal facilities.

Under Section 120(e)(5) of CERCLA, each department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government responsible for compliance with Section 120 must submit an annual report to Congress concerning its progress in implementing the requirements of Section 120. The report must include information on the progress in reaching Interagency Agreements (IAS), conducting remedial investigation and feasibility studies (RI/FS), and performing remedial actions. Federal agencies that own or operate facilities on the National Priorities List (NPL) are required to begin an RI/FS for these facilities within six months after being placed on the NPL. Remediation of these facilities is addressed in an IAG between the Federal agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and in some instances, the state within which the facility is located.

This report, prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Environmental Management, is being submitted to Congress in accordance with Section 120(e)(5) of CERCLA. It is DOE's Eleventh Annual Report to Congress and provides information on DOE's progress in implementing CERCLA Section 120 in fiscal year 1997 (FY 97), i.e., from October 1, 1996, to September 30, 1997.

CURRENT STATUS

There are 95 DOE facilities subject to CERCLA Section 120, and 21 DOE facilities on the NPL. DOE's NPL facilities are included in Table I-1. No new facilities were placed on the NPL in FY 97; however, two facilities placed on the NPL have not yet entered into IAGs. The other facilities are conducting remedial activities as specified in their IAGs.

REPORT CONTENTS AND ORGANIZATION

This report provides the status of ongoing activities being performed in support of CERCLA Section 120 at DOE facilities. This includes activities conducted to reach IAGs and progress in conducting remedial actions.

Section I describes Section 120 of CERCLA, the requirements of the Annual Report to Congress, and the status and locations of DOE facilities subject to Section 120 of CERCLA. Section II describes DOE's CERCLA compliance strategy. Section III provides a discussion of DOE's overall progress in reaching IAGs and responding to public comments regarding proposed IAGs. Section IV provides a detailed description of the status of each NPL facility subject to CERCLA Section 120 on a state-by-state basis.

Appendices A & B are described in the Introduction.